

The Family Readiness Team proudly presents

July 2006

The Rose

A publication created by the 1st Battalion 25th Marines Family Readiness Team

1st Battalion, 25th Marines Key Volunteers

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LtCol Christopher Landro

I am writing this to you on the 15th of July. An important day for me because it is my oldest daughter's seventh birthday. My how time flies. It is the last milestone family event that I will miss and completes the run of my wife's birthday, my youngest daughter's fourth birthday, our anniversary, the birth of my son and now my oldest daughter's. It's complete, now everyone is mad at me! As I said in a previous letter, my story is just one of a thousand for the family that is 1st Battalion, 25th Marines. This same scenario is experienced in some form or fashion and in some degree by all of us. Though I said time is flying for us, I know that it must seem excruciatingly slow for you. Nothing can ease the anxiety and fear of the unknown except the sharing of experiences, the support of one another and the hope for the future. Communicate with one another and your loved one as often as you can. We are all so proud of you for what you are going through and ask only that you understand why we do what we do. The warriors of this Battalion are performing magnificently. I could not be more proud of the effort they are putting forth. I witness acts of bravery, endurance, compassion and conviction every day. These acts are grounded in camaraderie and a sense of brotherhood that the Marines, Sailors and Soldiers of Task Force 1/25 will cherish all their lives yet will find difficult to explain to those who have not experienced it.

I am very glad and appreciative of the effort our Key Volunteer Network is putting forth. The halfway party sounded like a great success! I know that everyone back home celebrated the halfway mark in their own special way. It was great to be able to talk to the families that were gathered for the party and I hope my words gave you a sense of what we are doing. Even that seems quite a while ago, again signifying the passage of time. The day after that event we lost another Marine. Corporal Paul "Nick"

King was Killed in Action on 25 June. We all lost a brother that day. Nick was a great Marine, a great leader and a great American. He will be missed. The thoughts and prayers of every member of this Battalion go out to the King Family in your time of grief. I want to share a story with you that sounds a little alarming but has great meaning to us. Not long after we lost Nick, his Platoon (Whiskey 2) was on a combat patrol when a grenade was thrown at the vehicle. The grenade hit the turret gunner in the chest and fell into the vehicle. The grenade did not detonate. We are all trained to react to this type of occurrence but it is one you hope you never experience. Though they executed that drill, the team in that vehicle surely would have suffered some casualties had the grenade detonated. There are many here who believe that Whiskey 2 has a Guardian Angel in the form of Corporal King and that he was in over-watch that day.

As we continue to march through this deployment please know that we are doing great things and experiencing much success. We are providing the security needed to allow the City of Fallujah to rebuild and restore hope for a future. Basic necessities are coming on line, construction and economic development is expanding, schools and clinics are opening and the Iraqi Army and Police are marching towards their goal of operational independence. We see it everyday. The very small minority of Iraqis and Foreign Fighters that make up the insurgency do not experience much success in our area because the battle ready warriors of this Battalion destroy them when they show themselves and pursue them when they try to hide. We are keeping the pressure on them through the absolute professional performance of our mission. You should be immensely proud of your husbands, sons, brothers, fathers, significant others and friends for what they are doing. I know that I am.

Semper Fidelis

LtCol Chris Landro

FROM THE BATTALION SERGEANT MAJOR

Sergeant Major Bradley Trudell

July News Letter 2006

It seems as though I was just writing my piece for the June monthly news letter and mentioning our passing the halfway point and its now time to write again. Time is flying by for many of us here as we go about our daily tasks. There are so many things to do inherent in operating a Battalion of Marines in a combat environment. I have written to you about the hard work that's being done from the patrols to the maintenance facilities to the messing facilities and every other commodity area, each is as important as the other and nothing would be accomplished without a collective effort by all. As the work is fairly evenly spread loaded over the Battalion the hardships and the victories are also shared as well.

The summer heat is here and everyone is coping with it in their own way. I often hear the remark that we'll freeze when we get back to the states. Temperatures in the 60's and 70's will be cold sweatshirt and longjohn weather for us not to mention subzero New England winters. Be prepared to have your thermostats turned up a little higher than normal this winter, have lots of hot beverages readily available.

As I spend time talking to and listening to our Marines and Sailors I am buoyed by the sense of determination, pride and satisfaction that emanates from so many of these young men as we accomplish our mission. As we are now on the downward side of the deployment the focus remains the same; help prepare the Iraqi security forces to take their country back. We are continuing the hard work we started and will continue to do so until we turnover to our replacements and get on the planes to leave for home. I often hear thoughtful expressions of the desire to finish the job we started.

Many of the men in the Battalion are beginning to send items home that they have accumulated here in Iraq as they try to lighten their load in preparation for the trip home. We have accumulated mountains of goods that are distributed among the Battalion, to the Iraqi's and are piling up to turn over to our replacements. It won't be wasted. Keep the mail coming and before we know it we'll be telling you to stop mailing as we'll be home before it can reach us.

Semper Fidelis

Brad Trudell

Sergeant Major, 1st Battalion 25th Marines



Rank/ Complete Name

1st BN 25th Mar H&S Co

Unit 72195

FPO AE 09509-2195

Identity Theft



As many of you have heard, an employee of the Department of Veterans' Affairs took home a laptop computer and external hard drive in May 2006. The laptop was stolen and the data lost included the names, date of birth, and social security numbers of millions of veterans. In some cases, information on the veteran's spouse may have been included. The VA and the Department of Defense learned that as many as 1.1 million military members on active duty may have been included in the

data theft. Fortunately, the data was recently recovered and it appears that the personal information of our veterans was not violated.

As a precautionary measure, the VA is asking all veterans to monitor bank statements, credit card statements, etc and to report any suspicious activity. A good way to monitor your financial accounts is to review your credit report. A credit report can be requested free once per year through one of the three credit bureaus:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; www.equifax.com

Experian: 1-800-397-3742; www.experian.com

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; www.transunion.com

On June 21st, the VA announced that they will provide one year of free credit monitoring to individuals whose personal information may have been stolen in the incident. A follow-up letter will be mailed regarding this free service to those who chanced being affected by the incident.

Special thanks to Isabella Seney and Mrs DesRoches second grade class at the Pulaski Elementary School in New Bedford for sending letters to the Marines of 1/25!



A great idea was submitted by Valerie Seney, wife of SSgt Seney. With such a large family, Mrs Seney had to throw two birthday parties for her daughter, Isabella's, 8th birthday party- one for family members and one for friends. In lieu of gifts, all her friends brought care package items for the Marines of 1/25. Kudos to the Seney family!

**It was nice seeing everyone at the Half-way party!
I had a great time. I hope everyone else did too!**

DANIELLE SABOURIN—PROUD MARINE WIFE

Happy July everyone!

For those that have the guilty pleasure of hearing other people are too experiencing challenging moments; I will not disappoint. My deployment gods are playing with me again. In preparation for the H&S Co cookout at my house; I started to think maybe I should actually open my pool. When I did the pump wouldn't work. So I called the local pool store, they came out, looked at it and said nope. Nope?? What does that mean? Nope, they wouldn't work on it, pool is unsafe. Uggh... of course it is!! So needless to say, I now have a new pool. I am very proud of myself though, I bought a pool, put it in my car (yes you read correctly), arranged for the install contractor to come out and put it up, then found out I needed an electrician, got him out to the house, filled the pool, over filled the pool (oops), bought all chemicals needed, put them in (correctly), learned how to turn the filter on and off (and when to turn it on and off) and still a few weeks later have a functioning, clean, brand new pool.... Now I can take a breath... phew. I was cursing the deployment gods and wasn't the easiest person to deal with for a week, but I did it!! All by myself I did it – and in less than a week!! It felt so good- especially when I told my Marine! I hope you have all had those moments of I DID IT!! Now I need to figure out a way to say I forgot how to do it, so next year I can pass the job back over to my Marine!

To those who ventured to my home on the 15th, THANK YOU! The cookout was so much fun! It was so good to hang out with all of you! My favorite Marine mom was in my driveway at 10am setting up before I realized she was even there, and didn't stop working/helping until she left at midnight; thanks Maureen! I finally met a fellow Marine wife that I have formed a relationship with over email... the event wasn't canceled, she didn't forget or get lost and we finally met! Jen, it was great getting to know you! The "Morale Officer of Mass" brought the most beautiful cake (and friends), thanks Mum McD! We all learned a new pool trick from Joan, which I have passed on with reverence (a 1/25 event isn't complete without at least one Pugsley!); Christina and Mrs. "Ojay" verified that their Marine's name was in fact etched on to the Comm. Plt Horseshoe tourney plaque... phew I just updated it last week! Mrs. "Ojay", 2 Marine sons, overlapping tours in Iraq, I am in awe of your strength. To the two classy Irish women, you know who you are; now I know why I like Marty so much... he is a product of his beautiful family. Julie and Jackie entertained as usual -wouldn't be a get together without you; even though we didn't "slip and slide" this time! Colleen, my beautiful pregnant friend, it is an honor to represent H&S KVs with you. I got to meet the infamous sister of a Marine I am very fond of... Shelly, you were a ray of sunshine, I am glad to have met you, and thank you for the beautiful email. Finally, the party was complete with the company of the ever popular Gy. Walz and his beautiful family. The shirt was a big hit!! I promise, when you sadly depart from the hallowed halls of Devens, my steak tip recipe will be wrapped in a big bow – but not before then! It was a great day and the new pool was worth it – the kids were in there all day!

Speaking of parties: just a few days ago I received a gift... TWO cds full of pictures from my husband and his buddy. I had over 500 pictures and at least 10 video clips. It was a very good mail day. They are doing alright everyone, they really are... The videos and pictures portray high morale and great spirits. Included in the pictures are ones of my husband's platoon at their 4th of July block party. They had horseshoes, badminton, non-alcoholic beer, funny hats, patriotic bunting on anything that would stand still long enough, music from huge speakers, Hawaiian leis and a very impromptu grill. Most importantly, they all had smiles on their faces and the video clips were full of laughter. These men, in the grips of combat, were having fun. They are doing well.

As we get closer to homecoming the need for communication will increase – have you given me your email address yet? It is the fastest way to information! If you haven't, I urge you to do so now. Send your email address to DsabourinKV@cs.com.

We are doing it everyone.... And we are doing a great job! Pat yourself on the back and have a great month!! Whoo hoo another month closer!!!!

Warmest regards,
Danielle

FROM THE BATTALION CHAPLAIN

Fr. Marc J. Bishop, LT, CHC, USNR

"Good morning, Sir." I am greeted joyfully. "Good morning, Father," another voice groggily pipes-up. I take a slow glimpse at my watch to spy the time, it's 1607 (4:07 PM). And, respond: "Good afternoon, Marines." A little dumbfounded I walk further. At 1632 (4:32 PM), I am greeted with, "Good morning, Chaps." This time my confusion was not missed and the Lance Corporal corrected himself with, "Oh, sorry Sir. We were out late last night."

No, I was not angry but I was clearly confused. In the days and months that followed my confusion has abated (well at least about the odd greeting). Conventions of time mean little around here. Yes, we are always on time and precision is important but things like morning and evening have little to do with precision. They have everything to do with when I go to bed and rise; time to get to work; to complete the mission.

The day means little around here, also. I had a humorous encounter with a young marine at Charlie's FOB. The Marine asked me when we were going to have service that day. The time was about 1700 (5:00 PM). He continued: "I saw on the board last night that service would be on Wednesday, at 1400 (2:00 PM); but what about today?" I gently responded, "Today is Wednesday."

I've taken these odd greetings to be a symbol of the newness of each moment and the potential for each encounter. The Sun rises each day to embark on a new journey from East to West. Each time we greet another person we are embarking on a new journey. You never know when a kind greeting, no matter how odd or out of time it may be, may open a heart to say: "Hey Chaps, you got a minute." "Yes, I have all morning," no matter what time it is.

With each rising and setting of the Sun we are closer to being home. Each day brings new challenges and triumphs. The gravest hurt, the loss of Cpl Paul "Nick" King, was a great challenge to Weapons Company and the Battalion. Cpl King was a man of the utmost integrity and commitment. He is truly missed and we look forward to greeting him again at the end of our day; so that we can thank him for being a model of the virtuous Marine. He, his wife and parents are forever in our prayers.

Our minds often turn to the joys of home; when we say, "Good morning," in our pajamas while sitting at the breakfast table surrounded by family. I hope we will not be confused at that time, but I'll bet it will be past noon.

Blessings,

Fr. Marc J. Bishop



Chaplain Marc J. Bishop USNR
1st BN 25th Mar H&S Co
Unit 72195
FPO AE 09509-2195

TINA MCINTOSH—PROUD NAVY CORPSMAN WIFE

Hello to all! Well summer is in full force!! I hope you all have dried out from the torrential rains we have had!! Who knows maybe the powers that be felt we needed some "cleansing!" I hope you all are enjoying your summer and spending quality time with family and friends this Fourth of July. Time is flying and before you know it the kids will be back at school and fall will be upon us all!! Which cannot get here fast enough.....one step closer to the long awaited home-coming!!!

The Corpsman are all doing well and keeping busy!! I have heard from a few and they are anxiously waiting out there time there! I know we are all very proud of them!

Ideas on what to send?

Freezer pops - yes...they have a freezer!! Good old flavor ice!

Bug spray

Send your sailor a new pillow!!!

zip lock baggies - good for keeping sand out of things!

Frisbee's - they do have "down" time!

Foot insole's - you can buy any size they can cut them!

And it doesn't hurt to send some extra to pass out to fellow shipmates!!!

They share everything!

I hope this finds you all well! Remember....I know this is hard, (I have been through 2 other deployments with my sailor) but you can do it! You have done it! And they are counting on you to get them over this half way "hump"

to give them that little extra push. I know it's easy to let those letters and care packages get fewer and fewer but try not to. They look forward to mail call. At times we can all get on those pity parties but we have an obligation to fulfill just as they do. And that is to support them. They love you all and miss you just as much as you do them.

Thoughts for July!

The next time it's a clear summer evening go out and lay in the grass. The light you see reflecting from the stars is over one million years old. We share those stars with everyone in the world. If ever you feel like a mere blip in the gigantic scheme of things, please remember....yes, you are small, but your irreplaceable and invaluable and miraculous. Those stars don't have anything on you!

Tina McIntosh

PROUD NAVY CORPSMAN WIFE!!!!

Congrats to Doc Mac on his promotion!

FROM THE COMMAND OF ALPHA COMPANY

Alpha Company

Commanding Officer: Dear Alpha Company Friends and Family,

I am sure that many of you have already heard that we have moved from our palatial residence in Saqlawiyah to a truly magnificent residence southeast of Fallujah. The Marines are adjusting well and everyone is excited about having a new area in which to operate. Unfortunately along with occupying any new operations area comes new risks. We are fortunate that we have had some time to work out a number of standard operating procedures and these procedures greatly reduce the risk to your Marines. As always there will be rumors regarding the dangers of the new mission but rest assured that your Marines are well suited for the mission and fully prepared for the months that lie ahead. As I have talked with the Marines over the past few months, I have yet to hear even one Marine express regret about coming to Iraq. This journey on which we are embarked will certainly serve as a defining moment in many of their lives. The events and experiences associated with service in Iraq are for many, unlike any they will ever have again. The fear, camaraderie and excitement which are experienced here make you really appreciate what life in the United States is all about. Over the next few months there will certainly be times which will try men's souls but although such things are, in the least, unpleasant they are an inextricable part of war. Your sons and husbands are making history. They are writing a new chapter in the annals of the Marine Corps and those who have gone before can be assured that the traditions, expectation and standards of the Marine Corps are well represented by the members of Alpha Company 1/25.

Regards,

Maj. Keith A. Sykes

First Sergeant:

Hello everyone,

We're still here. I as you can tell from some of the pictures we've moved in to our new home. I thought we were pretty well off in Saqlawiyah but the much new improved Fob has much more to offer. We're putting in a phone line (DSN calls back to the States) and a small internet center with 4 internet connections. The Marines are doing well and are still working hard for their Country and Corps. Thank you to everyone involved for the great support the Marines have received up to this point. As they settle in their new plush condos they might need some new supplies. So please keep up the packages. The MOTO mail is coming in stacks!!!

We had 11 promotions this month and I'm sure there will be plenty more in the near future.

Thanks again and I'll be in touch again soon.

1stSgt Lodi

XO's comments:

I hope this message finds everyone well. We sure have been busy lately, and it makes the time fly by. The Marines are doing well, especially now that we are "over the hump". Sometimes these guys amaze me with how hard they work while keeping a smile on their faces. They are all so dedicated to what we are doing here. You should be proud of them.

We are still enjoying your packages and mail immensely, keep them coming please. However, keep in mind that as we get closer to the end large packages should not be sent. We do not want to risk that some of your mail may not make it in time and get lost in the shuffle. For your planning purposes make the first week of September your cutoff date.

It seems to be getting hotter and hotter every day. Don't worry though, we have working air conditioners for everyone and plenty of water and drinks. We will continue to work on improved communication with you back home. For now, be sure that we are doing everything we can to keep your Marines safe. They are in good hands, believe me.

Capt Matt Hodges, Company Executive Officer



Rank/ Complete Name
1st BN 25th Mar A Co
UNIT 72180
FPO AE 09509-2180

Alpha Company cont'd

Company Gunny:

Greetings from the make-shift desk of the Company Gunnery Sergeant. All is well in sunny Iraq. The Marines of Alpha Company moved into a new compound that was donated by a former member of the Ba'ath Party. What was once a nice home turned into a pretty good Forward Operating Base. We are still getting settled in but it looks as though we will have a nice home away from home. There seems to be more room than our previous place, however, Dynamite stayed at the Saq. He likes it there better. I tried to take him but he doesn't seem to like riding in the Hummer. As always mail is a big hit. Please keep it coming. We have been overwhelmed by care packages from all sorts of people. Most of whom I don't even know. It's great to know that there is so much support from back home.

By now the weather is very hot. We have plenty of ice and water. Our air conditioners are in and your Marines are getting well deserved comfortable sleep. I hope they don't get too spoiled. We are looking to get more telephones and internet so our communication should improve. Our gym is getting plenty of use. You may not recognize some of these guys when they get home. Lastly, we are getting good old Marine Corps chow once a day. It is as good as ever, the cooks are doing a stellar job in keeping us well fed.

Thanks so much for your continued support and it won't be much longer until we are back home enjoying the freedom that we all are so fortunate to have.-GySgt. Wes Drake

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MARINES!!!

RANKS REFLECT NEW RANK PROMOTED TO:

Gunnery Sergeant Shilo Garner

Sergeant Raymond J. Needle

Corporal Justin P. Brochu

Corporal Alexander M. Cornell DuHoux

Corporal Jose J. Penida

Corporal Jason B. Charlonne

Corporal William R. Doray

Corporal Chad R. Stauffer

Corporal Brian C. Williams

Lance Corporal Matthew S. Colpitts

Lance Corporal Tyler G. Colpitts

Lance Corporal Jonathan D. Volpe

PICTURES FROM THE ALPHA COMPANY 1STSGT

1stSgt Albert Lodi



Sgt Ledwith stops for a picture before entering a humvee



LtCol Landro and Major Sikes stand by the Company guide on at the Alpha FOB



Alpha Company Marine Officer Captain



Alpha Co Marines Stand in formation as Cpl Du Houx receives his chevrons while Sgt Needle awaits his new rank.



Alpha Company Marine LCpl Volpe is read his newly promoted rank



First Sergeant Lodi conducts the promotion of Cpl Brochu



Gunnery Sergeant Garner receives his chevrons during forma-

Thanks 1stSgt Lodi for sending us the pictures! There can never be enough!!

FROM YOUR ALPHA COMPANY KEY VOLUNTEER FOR MASSACHUSETTS

KATHLEEN COVEL -PROUD MARINE MOM

It is great that we are able to go to the web site as often as we want to check in on our guys and read stories of bravery and camaraderie. I love how it makes you feel a bit better and somehow closer to them. We still have a way to go and will need to keep up the pace on correspondence and sending packages. Enclose silly reminders of home to make them smile. I hope this summer is a good one for you. Keep in touch, as anywhere I go, my laptop and cell phone travel with me. Kath kcovel@comcast.net 978-793-0341

PACKAGES: Happy 4th of July box included tongue depressor American flags by 1st Graders, Stow, mini-flower pots with grinning heads and felt hearts for arms. 4H, Lancaster made drawings and notes to their heroes. Decorations and Patriotic gummy pops were donated with a Happy 4th of July Alpha Co Banner. Bubblegum and Tootsie Rolls were provided by Aunts Keli H. and Kathy C., from CT. Another July box held Family Day photos, a centerpiece, signed Posters and lots of R&R items like tennis balls, rackets, and Frisbees. Catie donated candies and lots of animal crackers. Books, toiletries, and sweets went in another box donated by 4H, Piccolo Mondo Ctr., and Deershorn Farm.

Susan celebrated a birthday recently (still looks goooorgeous and fit). She is training for the U.S.M.C. Marathon in Sept. in Boston - we will plan to cheer her on! Susan also celebrates a **HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** on July 22 (six years!) with her beloved Marine, who she says is doing well!

For fun, Gregg sent this one! **Visiting this summer? Here's a guideline for "BAWSTIN."** I hope you'll consider coming to "Beantown." For those who call New England home: There's no school on School Street, no court on Court Street, no dock on Dock Square, no water on Water Street. Back Bay streets are in alphabetical "oddah," i.e., Arlington, Berkeley, Clarendon, and Dartmouth. South Boston streets are: A, B, C, D, etc. If the streets are named after trees (Walnut, Chestnut, Cedar), you're on Beacon Hill. If they're named after poets, you're in Wellesley. Massachusetts Ave is Mass Ave; Commonwealth Ave is Comm Ave; South Boston is Southie. The South End is the South End. East Boston is Eastie. The North End is east of former West End. The West End and Scollay Square are no more. Roxbury is The Burry, Jamaica Plain is J.P. **Definitions:** Frappes have ice cream, milkshakes don't. If it is fizzy and flavored, it's tonic. Soda is CLUB SODA. "Pop" is Dad. When we want Tonic WATER, we will ask for Tonic WATER. The smallest beer is a pint. Scrod is whatever they tell you it is, usually fish. If you paid more than \$6/pound, you got scrod. It's not a water fountain; it's a bubblah. It's not a trashcan; it's a barrel. It's not a spucky it's a sub. It's not a shopping cart; it's a carriage. It's not a purse; it's a pockabook. They're not franks; they're haht dahgs. Franks were money in France. Police don't drive patrol units or black and whites they drive a "crooza". If you take the bus, your on the "looza crooza". It's not a rubber band, it's an elastic. It's not a traffic circle, it's a rotary. "Going to the islands" means Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. If something's good, it's "pissa" - really good, it's "wicked."

HOMECOMING: Don't stress, hold tight, and we will get direction for Alpha Co. Homecoming Plan from Topsham, Maine Command. They are pros! **For Now, Ask Yourself:** Do I have access to something we could use? Do I know someone or have something to entertain children? Have I something I can share? Let's use this time to think of what we have available. Let me know and I'll start a Spreadsheet for names of volunteers, a list of what you can do, and will list your innovative ideas. **Keep Busy:** Get spools of yellow ribbon, make bows, add wire so they can be tied around poles later at home and make some extras to contribute to decorate where we will eventually gather in Maine. Fill a large plastic bag and store bows until needed. Get poster board, paints, and white fabric for banners. Make signs for your front lawns. Pick up patriotic decorations, which are harder to find when summer is over. Make posters for both your home and where we will eventually assemble.

FOR 24 HOUR ACCESS TO A FEW GOOD MEN LOG ONTO: <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn/index.html>

SHEILA HOVASAPIAN -PROUD MARINE MOM

I have a lot of catching up to do --

Another year older – a very **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Benjamin Fortier – April 23; Cpl Steven Edwards – May 1; Cpl Isaah Finney – May 18; Proud Wife, Lori Finney – June 16; Proud Brother, Charlie Hovasapian – June 11 and LCpl Neil Hovasapian – July 1st Congratulations and Best Wishes to the recently engaged Pvt Adam Rich and his bride-to-be, Julie; also – Cpl Cody Baker and his bride-to-be Mindi! Congrats to one of the newest members of the “real world” – Charlie Hovasapian who graduated from Framingham State College in May!

HOMECOMING!!! Sounds so good!

We don't have a date. We don't have a place. But what I'm sure we have is some great ideas and we will have a fantastic homecoming for our Marines! The only information we have now is that each Company will return to their Headquarters so for Alpha Company, we'll be in Maine. If you have any ideas on how we can make this “Welcome Home” the best “New England's Own” has ever seen, contact Kathleen Covel, Rebecca Tracy or myself. We will pass your ideas on to Marine Command in Topsham.

THE FEW, THE PROUD –

Every now and then, I come across something that catches my eye and makes me smile. The latest is a quote from Ronald Reagan:

“Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference – Marines don't have that problem.”

As my bumper sticker says – “Marine Mom – the toughest job in the Corps”. Some would argue that the Marines have the toughest job and I would certainly be the first to admit that, even in my prime, I would have been put on the first bus back to Boston from Parris Island. I am truly in awe of my son, your sons, your husbands and fathers and brothers. So many heroes I have yet to meet, but feel I know. How do we begin to thank them? So I leave you on another quote that makes me smile (I don't know who said this one):
“Sleep well, America .. our Marines have your back!”



FROM THE BRAVO COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

First Sergeant Gary A Hubbard

Hello,

All of the Bravo Company Marines are doing well. Another month has past for the "Boys of Company B". One day closer to making that trip back to the great nation of United States of America.

The Marines have been working very hard. The Marines have been patrolling the streets of Al Fallujah every day and night. The Marines in the Company have been ensuring that the people of the city have been safe from the bad guys. The Marines have been the subject of several hazards of the job for an example IEDs, small arms fire, etc. The Marines have done very well at keeping themselves safe from the hazards of the job but I think the biggest hazard is that time is getting closer to coming home. I am worried that the Marines will start putting down their guard because they can see that the time to going home is coming closer as every day pasts. So I need your help in letting your Marines know that he needs to keep his head in the fight and to stay focus on the job at hand and remind him that until he arrives back home the job is not done, the job of bringing himself home safely.

"Mail" Well it is about that time to slow down in sending so many boxes through the mail to your Marine/s. Most of the Marines have just about anything he needs or want by now but please do not stop or slow down in sending letter mail or motto mail.

"Rumors" I just want to take this time to talk about some rumors of coming home. I know Marines from the Company will be calling home and telling you that he will be home on some unknown date please do not plan on that date he gives you because it may be wrong. Well he does not know when he will be coming home, all he knows that it will be some time in October. There has been many dates being past out there and I do not want you to get your hopes up that your Marine is coming home and then he does not show up. So please no Rumors... Everything is subject to change reference dates for flying.

Thanks for all of your help, thoughts, and prayers.



Semper Fidelis!!

First Sergeant Hubbard, Gary A

Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 25th Marines



Rank/ Complete Name
1st BN 25th Mar Bravo Co
UNIT 72185
FPO AE 09509-72185



RAISED BOTH THE AMERICAN AND MARINE
 CORPS FLAGS DURING THE DAY OF 4TH JULY
 2006



MARINES SPEAKING WITH THE LOCAL PEOPLE
WHILE ON PATROL INSIDE THE CITY



CPL THORNTON AND CPL CHUN AFTER IED CLASS
WITH EOD



DOC PONJUAN TAKES A PICTURE WITH SOME OF
THE LOCAL KIDS



SGT IGO AND LCPL GRIMALDI WITH SOME OF THE
LOCAL KIDS



LCPL DAUGHERTY AND LCPL SACCARDO DURING
IED TRAINING WITH EOD



LCPL CORTELLI GETTING HIS HAIR CUT BY LCPL
ANDERSON

BRAVO COMPANY PROMOTIONS FOR THE 3RD Quarter:

CORPORAL TO SERGEANT:

CPL KWON, KH

LANCE CORPORAL TO CORPORAL:

LCPL KRAILO, DL

LCPL ROBINSON, GM

LCPL ZERBINOPOULOS, JR

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS TO LANCE CORPORAL:

PFC BROWN, JH

PFC MCALEER, PJ

PFC PARMENTER



Bravo Company's vehicles stage during Operation north of Dave's



GYSGT DEMENKOW RAISED THE AMERICAN FLAG DURING THE DAY OF 4TH JULY 06



1ST PLATOON ON THE MOVE THROUGH THE STREETS OF FALLUJAH



OP KLINGER ON ROUTE FRAN



Train Station at night

FROM YOUR BRAVO COMPANY KEY VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

MICHELLE PROULX -PROUD MARINE WIFE

Hello to all Bravo Families and friends,

Again, I want to say that I hope everyone is having a happy summer - and also getting out there and enjoying the sun. A close friend of mine, 1stSgt Richard Voutour, sends me information now and then on things that are happening in Massachusetts and New Hampshire that might be fun and useful information for the families. When I received his last e-mail and saw all that was going on in July (and that can still go on in August) I thought of the 1/25 families and friends. So please get out there and have some fun. Our Marines and Sailors would want us to. They would want the kids to have some fun and keep their minds busy. So please look at all the things that are going on and take advantage of the discounts that you can get.

Anheuser-Busch Extends Free Park Visits

This program offers free tickets to Busch Gardens and Sea World to military members and their families. The program, called "Here's to the Heroes," has become so popular that Anheuser-Busch extended the free visits for another year. "Here's to the Heroes" is open to active duty service members, active members of the Reserve or National Guard, and up to three direct dependents for one free admission per year. For more information and to find a form for free admission, visit: <http://www.herosalute.org>.

Summer attractions:

Six Flags New England - \$25.00 Call Devens at 978-796-2126

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE: Information, Tickets and Travel, 781-377-3262

Canobie Lake Park - \$21.50 , **Water Country** - \$24, **Yorks Wild Kingdom** - \$12 (ages 4 and older, tickets for children 3 and under can be purchased at the gate for \$4)

Boston along the Charles: Join us on a canoe tour of historical Boston along the Charles River on Friday, Aug. 11. \$20 per person. Reservations accepted until Aug. 7

Washington DC: July 20-23, includes escorted sightseeing Capital Tour, Vietnam & Korean War Memorials, new FDR Memorial, WWII Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institute's Air and Space Museum, presidential monuments and the cherry blossoms; five full course meals; \$394 pp/dbl occupancy **Red Sox vs. Blue Jays Trip:** Sept. 22-24, featuring Niagara Falls sightseeing and tickets to see the Red Sox play the Toronto Blue Jays at Sky Dome Baseball Stadium; \$234 per person/double occupancy **Old Town Trolley:** Boston Trolley Tour, \$23 each, save \$6. In Boston, student and senior tickets are \$26.

Boston Red Sox Tickets

You can order Boston Red Sox tickets either online or by just picking up the phone. Go online to see a 2006 Boston Red Sox schedule, a seating chart of Fenway Park, or to order tickets. To place an order over the phone call toll free at 800-279-4444 and one of our knowledgeable sales agents will be happy to assist you.

GO SOX

Take Care & God Bless,

Michelle Proulx KVC Bravo Co.

michelle.proulx@yahoo.com

FROM THE CHARLIE COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

First Sergeant Ben Grainger

Back to shackles?

They have been digging up the streets laying new power lines throughout the city. Schools are opening up as fast as we can finish them and more police have come into the city. What better news than that. The army has grown and I don't think we are to far away from giving up more of the country to the Iraqi government. We where told most of the south was just handed over to there control as the police and army are in place and the cities have gotten things up and running. The areas of the city were we can get the insurgent to stop destroying the stuff we put in for the people are flourishing. You can walk the streets and see the vendors and small business men doing business as usual. Entire mall areas are open and some nice restaurants have opened to the public. Entire streets are crowded with vendors and buyers. Market squares are almost impassable. When we enter many of the houses now they have full channels and satellite dishes. They were watch MTV in one house another was listening to some rapper guy all the troops know. We are starting to see cars that have the big chrome wheels and everyone has cell phones it seems. Yea these are the people that we are destroying their cultural ways by being insensitive to their beliefs. Hmmm. This is starting to look just like Baharia or Dubai or any of the other 30 countries or so around this world I have been to that have freedom of choice. The only thing they fear here is what we fear in America, terrorist attacks now, oh and that we will leave to soon. So I have decided when I get back I will protest the protestors! The civilian me not the Marine me. Because anyone protesting us, must want women put back into a form of male dominated slavery, people scared to voice their opinions, and the questions raised to government answered with death or an arm. I thought about it as I talked to one of our interpreters from Baghdad. Who would tell him that due to our protestors we have decided to release Saddam and put him back in power. That all women must walk covered up, want to or not, without saying a word or dare a beating or stoning. That he must either be a baathist or fear who will kick down his door in the night. That anything he says again could lead to his torture or death, depends how the local guy feels that day. Oh and I really feel bad for the soccer team as they did not win the world cup this year. What would Uday have to say? Anyways Sammy starting next week, due to a lot of protestors who have never been here or lived a day in your shoes, we are turning it all back. Here do you want to borrow my shackles I won't need them anymore as I am leaving...

Rank/ Complete Name**1st BN 25th Mar Charlie Co****UNIT 72190****FPO AE 09509-2190**

First Sergeant Charles Delcourt



I'm not sure who is more excited, the Marines in Weapons Company or their families!! We have passed the half way point in our deployment!! Unfortunately, and with a heavy heart, it has come at a toll we prayed would never happen. Our brother, Cpl Paul King, was killed in action this past month on 25 June 2006. Our sincerest condolences and sympathies are passed along to his wife and family members. Cpl King will be greatly missed, but forever live in our memories. In his honor we continue to push on and continue the mission. Our new Company Commander, Maj Abele, has taken the helm of the company and dove in head first!!! We continue our aggressive pursuit of ridding our AO of insurgents and helping those that are in need. Our AO will be expanding a little bit this month, and will surely keep us busy. Busy is good, as the time passes by much quicker. I've asked our Marines to think of

this second half as just starting a 90 day deployment. Take the time to address what we've done right, what we can do better, and apply it to our daily practices so we may continue to be successful. As of the first of July, the following Marines were promoted to the rank of Corporal: **LCpl Foley**, **LCpl Robbins**, **LCpl Murray**, and **LCpl Johnson**. In addition, the following Marines were promoted to the rank of Sergeant: **Cpl Burke** and **Cpl Rodriguez**. Congratulations to all; well deserved. We also had four Marines earn themselves Meritorious Mast for the work they are performing in Iraq: **LCpl Stone**, **LCpl Umbarger**, **LCpl Blotevogel**, and **PFC Perry**. A job well done!! In the past month the following Sailors have been promoted to Hospital Mate 2nd Class: **HM3 Jordan**, **HM3 Walsh**, **HM3 Gallego**, and **HM3 Coleman**. In addition, **HM2 Cinelli** was promoted to the rank of HM1. Congratulations to the "Docs". The following Marines were awarded Purple Hearts this past month: **Sgt Fotiadis**, **LCpl Nadeau**, and **Cpl Dwyer**. A new addition to the Marine Corps family was born this month on 24 June 2006 to LCpl Jorge and his wife Teresa Jorge. Their son, Christian Leonardo Jorge, was born at 1730 hours, weighed 7lbs 3 oz, and was 20 1/2 inches long. Congratulations!!! From all the Marines and Sailors in Weapons Company; we would like to extend our thanks to everyone who is supporting us in so many different ways. The countdown is on, and some are anxiously marking their calendars. We wish everyone a belated Happy 4th of July!!! Until next time...



Rank/ Complete Name

1st BN 25th Mar WPNS Co

Unit 72200

FPO AE 09509-72200-2200

First Sergeant Charles Delcourt

Prohibited Items

Per CENTCOM Order dated 11 Oct 05

- *Unexploded and exploded ordnance, including landmines, rockets and submunitions.
- *Pistols, revolvers, rifles and other concealable firearms
- *Ammunition, live or spent
- *Shell casings and magazines
- *Weapon/Firearm parts such as magazines, bolt assemblies, receiver, stock, barrel, etc..
- *Explosives including explosive devices
- *Drugs
- *Drug paraphernalia to include HOOKAHS, SHEESHA, NARGILE, ANY WATER PIPES USED FOR SMOKING TOBACCO
- *Alcohol
- *Perishable items
- *Plants
- *Animals, live or dead
- *Insects, live or dead
- *Flammable and combustible liquids, gases and solids
- *Fireworks
- *Radioactive materials
- *Matches
- *Toxic substances
- *Lighters
- *Dry Ice
- *Magnetized material
- *Sand
- *Soil
- *Rocks
- *Cuban Cigars
- *Flak
- *Kevlar
- *Sapi Plates
- *NBC Gear



Non-Mailable War Trophies (Defined as any captured and abandoned enemy material)

- *Weapons, Ammunition, Comm. Devices, NBC Gear

BATTALION CALENDAR

September 2006

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
AND ATTEND SOME GREAT
1/25 FAMILY FUNCTIONS.
ALL FAMILIES WHO HAVE A
LOVED ONE DEPLOYED WITH
1/25 IN IRAQ ARE
ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND!!!!!!**

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

H & S and
Weapons
Company
Meet & Greet!

11

**Operation
Homecom-
ing
RALLY!**

12

13

14

15

16

Charlie CO.
Ziti Dinner and
Raffle!

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Boston
Marine Corps
Honor Run!!

25

26

27

28

29

30

Charlie Co.
Wine Tasting
and Silent
Auction!

♥ **August 20th**— Support the troops Rally—Missed Troops in the spotlight? Well here is your chance to get the feel for an organization that will ask all attendees to wear Red and get an aerial photo taken with the crowd spelling out "THANK YOU"!! We need you! E-mail Julie Delcourt for details.

♥ **September 10th**— The H & S and Weapons Company "meet who you will greet your hero with" Party! Hanscom AFB at 1pm. Bring a packed picnic for the family and meet the families who will be by your side at homecoming!! This is a homecoming dress rehearsal... We will be practicing our cheering, so get excited!!!!

♥ **September 11th**— Operation Homecoming is holding a fundraiser to keep our heroes from paying their hard earned money to attend their Birthday Ball! Details will follow!

♥ **September 16th**- Ziti Dinner and Raffle Plainville, CT VFW Time: 6:30pm – 9:30pm Ticket Price: \$10.00. POC Kristen Taylor or your KV to purchase tickets

♥ **September 24th**— Boston Marine Corps Honor Run 5k & 10 K Come out and cheer your fellow family members over the finish line! It will be a day full of Esprit de Corps!

♥ **September 30th**- Wine Tasting and Silent Auction. At the Timex Bowl, Waterbury, CT Please contact Lisa Conti or your KV to purchase tickets.

1/25 Key Volunteer Network Quick Reference

Key Volunteer

Serving Company

Best way to contact

Rebecca Tracy	Alpha Company	207-329-0537/rtracy1@maine.rr.com
Kathleen Covell	Alpha Company	978-793-0341/kcovell@comcast.net
Sheila Hovasapian	Alpha Company	hovasapian@verizon.net
Michelle Proulx	Bravo Company	michelle.proulx@yahoo.com
Melissa Malm	Charlie Company	melissamalm@sbcglobal.net
Danielle Sabourin	H & S Company	508-966-3137/DSabourinKV@cs.com
Colleen Stone	H & S Company	csstone4@juno.com
Charlotte Wills	Weapons Company	781-894-1787/charlottewills@rcn.com
Julie Delcourt	Battalion/Weapons Company	juliedelcourt@comcast.net



From Left to Right: Charlotte Wills, Colleen Stone, Danielle Sabourin, Julie Delcourt, Nancy Correa, Donna, Melissa Malm, Kristen Taylor, Kathleen Kovel

For the families of Marines who transferred from 2/25

Key Volunteer

Serving Company

e-mail

phone

Heather Higgins	Echo Company	hhiggins@dcls.org	717-979-7920
Amy Chacko	Fox Company	mrschacko8125@aol.com	732-607-0340
Caroline Lofton	Golf Company	teamlofton@patmedia.net	908-874-3787
Sharon Martino	2/25 H & S	USMCmartinoKVN@aol.com	845-471-1604
Mary O'Leary	2/25 Weapons	maricath@optonline.net	631-584-0109
Kathy DuPont	2/25 KVC	surfseal@hotmail.com	516-741-1503

FOR 24 HOUR ACCESS TO A FEW GOOD MEN LOG ONTO: <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn/index.html>



JULY 20, 2006

ITS MID JULY.....

Well its mid July, we had a 4th of July party here on our building. We played some volleyball, barbecued the already cooked burgers and dogs we got from the chow hall. A Marine Sergeant was promoted on the team, SSGT Ashley Hernandez. He is a great asset to be added to the Marine Corps Staff NCO community. We have managed to get the Iraqi Police to work together with the our Iraqi Army soldiers. That is a big accomplishment being they are from two tribes that, in history and still today, fight against each other - now the two fight together against the enemy. We have been doing extensive patrolling in our battle space with the ISF and we are handing as many toys out as we can to the children. It is amazing to see the expressions on the children's faces when we give them toys or candy. The dreaded heat has arrived for the rest of the summer it will be a bolstering 118—125 degrees. The dust clouds that are formed every morning and hang around until midnight from the traffic on the FOB lets us know that progress is moving forward in the war. We appreciate all the care packages that are coming in, they do help make it better for us. A monster drink is our preferred beverage of the day it takes you from a tired advisor to a super charged advisor. Funny thing is the Iraqis don't understand how we continuously work from early morning until early morning the next day, The average day run about 16 hours for each member sometimes more. So monsters are what keeps us on top of the game as well as just pure dedication and motivation to our mission.

Sincerely,

MiTT 1/25

MiTT Team Address:

TEAM 1/25
1 MHG MTT 10
UNIT 42710
FPO AP 96426-2710

TEAM WISH LIST

If you wish to send packages to your love ones this section will provide a list of those items needed to complete our mission or make our lives a little more bearable.

Monster Drinks (need more)

Nuts, popcorn

Top ramen, Baby Wipes

Green Tea, Disposable razors

TEAM LEADER COMMENTS

Dear Friends: We are fast approaching the halfway point of our adventure. Hard to believe that it is the middle of July. The team is strong and we are all determined to make the best of everyday, to make the best Iraqi soldiers we can, and to help the Iraqi people. Because the new Iraqi Army has many administrative problem, we decided to help the families of the soldiers that have been killed since we arrived here. When an Iraqi soldier is KIA, the Ministry of Defense stops his pay and is currently incapable of providing death gratuities for the killed soldier's families. Our Iraqi battalion XO, Major Haje Mohammad, told me that the families are left with nothing and must rely on the kindness of others to barely make it by. One major that was killed has 4 daughters another officer a young wife and new daughter. I went to our team and our partner U.S. Army unit and asked for help and the response was amazing. In a matter of hours-over \$1500.00 was donated for the families of our fallen Iraqi brothers. When I brought the donations to the XO, a devoutly religious man, he broke into tears and thanked Allah for the kindness and humanity of his American brothers. Despite all the negative things you read and hear— we are making a difference here, one family at a time.

S/F LtCol S

TEAM NOTES

LTCOL Stillings- Just gotta train em, not like em...
Major Mayhan- The Natural.
Capt Lucht- Logistics sucks...but I am ok with that..
Capt Tennen- Finally got my company ...16 Jundee.
LT Rice- Mission, mission, mission Americi, Iraqi sleep, sleep...
Capt Brunk- Dancing Queen....
CWO Forgash- Forgash of Arabia...
MSTGUNS- Professor of US history... Chino State.
Gunny Davis- Still fragile we feed him triple rations...
SFC Davis- Call me Kavul...
SFC Folks- Always prepared for mission...NOT
SSGT Hernandez- Born again Grunt..
SSGT Rinehart- Mr Paranoia...
SGT Krill- Kadum Kadum... Where Kadum...
SGT Asher- Sleepy....Droopy you decide...
SGT Duran- Sexiest eyebrows on the team...
SGT Chapman- Leader of the Anglicans...
CPL Brooks- Gunny Davis's gym partner...
CPL Mosteller- Don't know what to say, cant understand him....
Doc Peterson- Humanitarian and Diplomat at heart...
Doc Garza- Mr Talkative...
Doc Appler- Preventive Maintenance Mumbles...

This is a LDL production

Key Volunteer Network
1st Battalion 25th Marines
4th Marine Division
53 Quebec Street
Devens RFTA
Ayer, Massachusetts 01432-4424



Mailing Address

*A very Happy Birthday to our extended Marine Family Members who
celebrate a Birthday in the Month of July...*

Ronald Clement
Beth Stanley
Polly Doherty
Alice Countermine
Cruf Tabares
Shannon Morin



DID WE MISS YOUR BIRTHDAY?
LET US KNOW AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU TOO!

FOR 24 HOUR ACCESS TO A FEW GOOD MEN LOG ONTO: <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn/index.html>